

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (New) A handling device for returnable packagings comprising a feeding device, having at least one inlet opening, a first detection device arranged in connection with said feeding device, means for detection of at least one property of the material of a returnable packaging, in order to control/affect the operation in a subsequent sorting unit, wherein a lock unit is arranged before said sorting unit, and a compression unit, wherein said lock unit comprises a first and a second stop device, arranged to control that only one returnable packaging at a time is present at said second stop device, wherein said means comprises a second detection device arranged within said feeding device, which second detection device includes a gauge arranged to distinguish between metal and plastic, and that said sorting unit is moveable arranged, between different positions, based on a control signal from said second detection device, in order to dependent of its material direct the returnable packaging into one of at least two different directions.

15. (New) A handling device according to claim 14, wherein the first stop device is arranged to be closed when a returnable packaging is in a position between the first and the second stop device.

16. (New) A handling device according to claim 15, wherein the first stop device is arranged to be open able when there is no returnable packaging present between the first and the second stop device, preferably by use of a detector arranged between the first and the second stop device, respectively.

17. (New) A handling device according to claims 14, wherein the second stop device is arranged to be open when a positioning device is empty and in position to position/retain a returnable packaging for detection, by the second detection device.

18. (New) A handling device according to claims 15, wherein the second stop device is arranged to be open when a positioning device is empty and in position to position/retain a returnable packaging for detection, by the second detection device.

19. (New) A handling device according to claims 16, wherein the second stop device is arranged to be open when a positioning device is empty and in position to position/retain a returnable packaging for detection, by the second detection device.

20. (New) A handling device according to claim 14, wherein the feeding device is continuously acting on returnable packagings.

21. (New) A handling device according to claim 20, wherein the feeding device is continuously acting on returnable packagings by gravity.

22. (New) A handling device according to claim 14, wherein a compression unit is arranged after the feeding device and before a sorting unit.

23. (New) A handling device according to claim 14, wherein at least one stop/positioning device is arranged in the form of a holder-on arranged to position a returnable packaging by preventing its continued movement through the feeding device.

24. (New) A handling device according to claim 14, wherein said second gauge comprises at least one inductive gauge.

25. (New) A method in connection with the handling of returnable packagings, comprising a feeding device, compressing said returnable packaging in a subsequent compression unit and sorting of the returnable packaging in a sorting unit that is subsequent to the compression unit, wherein the detection of at least one property of material of the returnable packaging is performed in the feeding device in order to control the subsequent sorting of the returnable packaging and that both plastic and metal packagings are compressed in the same compression unit.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein subsequent to the sorting unit there is arranged a magnetic sorting device, arranged to sort an aluminium can from other metal cans.